(b) whether there is any specified time schedule for refunding this pre-receipted additional 5 per cent amount to the buyers;

(c) what is the total amount lying accumulated with the SAIL on this account;

(d) whether the payees are given due interests for their deposits; if so, how much and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the manner in which the accumulated 5 per cent additional deposits from buyers are being utilised by the SAIL?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) Iron and steel materials are supplied by SAIL either directly from the plants or through its stockyards. As it is not practicable to predetermine the exact weight of the material to be supplied, it is necessary to obtain an advance deposit to cover marginal excess deliveries, if any. To take care of such excess deliveries SAIL collects about 105 per cent of the value of materials against every delivery order. However, the customers are also given the option to give a standing bank guarantee or a deposit of Rs. 10,000/- in which case deposits of the extra 5 per cent advance is not required.

(b) Yes, Sir. A specific time schedule has been laid down by SAIL for refund of additional 5 per cent collected from the buyers. This varies from payment made within one month upto 3 months. Since the physical delivery of material is from the stockyard and the financial transactions and accounting are conducted in Branch offices, it is not possible to refund the extra amount at the time of delivery itself.

(c) No separate account is maintained for the extra amount of 5 per cent collected and, therefore, it is not possible to furnish the amount involved.

(d) Payments collected from the buyers are of the nature of security deposits. As per the past practice, no interest is paid on them.

(e) The additional 5 per cent is held in the bank pending refund to customers.

SAARC Food Security Reserve

3806. SHR S S. AHULUWALIA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3215 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 31st August 1987 and state by when a SAARC Food Security Reserves of 200,000 tonnes of foodgrains is likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K L BHAGAT): An Agreement for establishing SAARC Food Security Reserve with a size of 200,000 tonnes of wheat and rice was signed on 4|11|1987 by the SAARC member countries at the 3rd Summit held recently in Kathmandu. The Agreement will enter into force on a date to be determined by the SAARC Council of Ministers, provided that the member countries have collectively earmarked at least 125,000 tonns of foodgrains on that date for the purpose of the Agreement.

Allotment of land for primary school in Vasant Vihar, New Delhi

3807. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any land has been allotted by the Land and Development Office for the Middle School in Vasant Vihar CPWD complex, New Delhi, if so, the date of a allotment of land;

(b) whether there are any other requests of various public|associations sansthans for allotment of land to M.C. D. for opening of Primary School in that area, which are lying pending with the Land and Development